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By RUSSELL EATON.
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MAINE FARMER.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

Preparation of Seeds.

At this time of the year, when the farmer is called upon to commit to the earth the seed of the future crop, it seems peculiarly necessary to think a little upon the subject of preparing that seed in the most suitable manner, even if it should not be altogether in his power to practice every hint, or to even practice all that his own experience may have taught him.

It is a subject very liable to be overlooked, and yet, one of no small importance to the farmer, who is desirous to reap the greatest crop from the least outlay of labor and capital. As a general rule, the matter is neglected until the ground is plowed, and harrowed, and all ready to be sown. The farmer then "hunts up" the seed—perhaps he has it in his own bin, unsorted and only half cleaned, filled with grass seeds and weed seeds, and unripe kernels of the kind which he desires to sow. "Never mind," says he, "I haven't time now to separate it—the team is waiting—I must do better another season"—and away goes the foul stuff into the ground with all its accompanying abominations. Now, a little time—say some leisure day during the last of winter,—might have been very profitably spent in screening, separating and cleansing this very batch of seed for spring use. Perhaps he has to "drop all" and run about to buy it. If this be the case, look-out for a shave. Seed wheat, seed barley, seed corn, or seed anything, commands a little better price than the common kinds, and there are Shylocks enough, who, when they see a man with a bag in his hand, enquiring for "good seed," always have it at a little extra price, while the extra quality is not so clearly perceptible. There are honorable exceptions to this we will allow. A little time spent by the farmer in running his seed grain through the proper machinery, for cleansing it of pinched and shrivelled grains and foul stuff, would pay him a very handsome profit.

There is another branch of preparation of seeds beginning to demand attention, which will undoubtedly arrest the attention of every thinking farmer. It is that of soaking or steeping seeds in different kinds of stimulating liquids. Much speculation has been had, by chemists, and those practical farmers who have become favorably impressed with the good action of different kinds of steeping, and we have published in the Farmer, during the past year, some pretty encouraging stories, to say the least of them, from those who alledge that a few days' soaking of wheat, oats or other grain, was equivalent to a dressing of manure on the land. Such assertions ought to be received with caution—just faith enough to induce you to look patiently into the question, and, as Paul recommends in religious matters, "to prove all things, and hold fast that which is good." Some of these statements come from men entitled to respectful consideration. Thus, Mr. COLMAN, in the second number of his European Agriculture, devotes a chapter to the subject of steeping seeds. He communicates a letter from Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL to him, wherein he details the results of steeping seeds in solutions of sulphate, nitrate, and muriate of ammonia, also nitrate of soda and potassa, and combinations of these.

Almost every farmer has been in the habit of occasionally soaking his wheat or his corn in a solution of some chemical salt, such as coppers, or blue vitriol, or saltpetre, before sowing it, but no very exact experiments have been instituted by them to ascertain the comparative benefits.

Another question in regard to the preparation of seeds, will probably, sooner or later, be submitted to the practical farmer, as it has already exercised the leisure hours and curiosity of some amateurs: and that is in regard to the power, as well as the precise changes, which galvanic, or, in other words, electrical action has upon the germinating seed. All those may engage the attention of those who have time and capital to expend in such research, and the more practical and operative farmer will put them into use when all the laws of their action have become unfolded, and the conditions of their application better understood. Until then it will be his duty to keep on the safe side, follow improvements as fast and far as safety will allow, and keep his eye open to see and learn other improvements, as fast as they shall be established by the pioneers of this practical science.

PENOBSCOT BEEFERS. The Bangor Whig says that a couple of oxen were lately slaughtered in that city, which weighed as follows: the heaviest, one side, 776—the other, 766—hide, 123—tallow, 179—total, 1844. The lightest, one side, 685—the other, 682—hide, 129—tallow, 146—total, 1641. Total weight of both, 3485. These oxen were raised by J. S. Johnson, Esq., of Dixmont, Penobscot Co. The Whig says the beef is equal to "Boston beef." Why, dear soul, Boston beef is no better than Bangor beef; and if you will just send that up to the big city, it will soon become the Boston article. The Bostonians are indebted to the "country folks" for the majority of their best cattle, over which they "crack" so much.

Third Number of Colman's European Agriculture, in manuscript, has been received by the American publisher, A. D. Phelps, Boston, and will soon be before the public.

MAINE FARMER.

A Family Paper; Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, General Intelligence, &c.

VOL. XIII.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1845.

NO. 18.

Smut in Wheat.

As the weevil seems to have been less abundant for a few years past, in the middle sections of Maine, our farmers are again venturing to sow more liberally. There are two other troubles that often attend us in the culture of wheat, and these are rust and smut—(we speak of spring wheat). Early sowing is a pretty sure preventive of rust; and as for smut, it may be prevented by thoroughly cleansing the grain. Some wash it in a solution of blue vitriol, being careful to scrub the grain with the hand so as to be sure that all the smut balls, that have found adhering to the ends of the kernels, shall be crushed, and that the seed shall be thoroughly imbedded with the solution.

The Editor of the Albany Cultivator gave us, last fall, an account of a process practiced by a gentleman near Baltimore, which is very cheap and very simple. It is merely washing the seed carefully and effectually in a strong solution of common glauber salts, (sulphate of soda). He dissolves enough in the water to make the solution sufficiently dense to bear up an egg. Then washes the wheat by hand, being careful to skim off all the light, floating grains and seeds. By making the solution thus strong, none but the heavier grains will sink. The same may be effected by a strong solution of common salt, although some think the common salt not quite so good to destroy the smut seeds. After the washing, it may be spread out on a floor to become somewhat dry. Some sprinkle slackened lime upon it, and some plaster of paris, and then sow it immediately.

PLANT THE MARROW SQUASH, EARLY. The Marrow Squash is one of the best that is raised by farmers, but in this latitude it should be planted as early as the seed will vegetate. We have noticed, and, we believe, before mentioned to our readers, that they seldom blossom until the vines are two feet long. The sooner, therefore, you get them so long, the sooner you may expect to see them blossom, and, of course, the sooner push out the fruit.

Genology.

Mr. HOLMES:—As much is being done at the present day for the improvement and propagation of poultry, I will mention a circumstance that occurred some six or eight weeks since. While feeding my hens I noticed one of them was in a drooping state, and did not come forward to eat. I examined her, and found the crop full. I let her go until the next morning, when she was found in the same situation, and bid fair to die. I took her to the house, made an incision into the crop, removed its contents, corn, clover leaves, chaff, &c.,—cleansed the crop, brought the skin nicely together, and sewed it up. The operation did not appear to be attended with pain. Let pitch her go she appeared faint,—piled her forward, and could hardly stand. We fed her on light, easily digested food,—kept her in a few nights, and then let her out with the other hens. She is now well, and lays regularly. I mention this for the benefit of others who may find their poultry laboring under the same or a similar difficulty.

L. B. HUNTOON.

Hints for Spring Work.

During the present month, farmers should endeavor as much as possible to get their land into the best condition for planting, for on this will depend in a great measure the success of the crop.

No pains should be spared to apply manure copiously to corn and potato crops—the product will abundantly repay the labor. To the small grain-crops, as for instance, oats and barley, manure should not commonly be applied, as the beneficial in such case may not overbalance the injury.

Wheat, which has been injured by the heating of the frost, has in some cases been greatly benefited by passing a roller over it, thus pressing the roots again into the earth.

New meadows should be rolled in the spring, to render the surface smooth for mowing.

Plaster, to be beneficial to the greatest extent should be sown on meadows early in spring.

Green sand, in order to be turned over neatly, should have the furrow slices one half wider than thick.

Seed barley, by being limed and rolled in plaster, has produced crops free from smut in consequence of this operation, and yielded larger products.

Stocks of peach and other fruit trees, should now be cut and trimmed. Every bud should be removed except the one intended to grow.

The soil round fruit trees which do not stand in cultivated ground should be spaded for; two or three feet on each side. This is absolutely necessary for young trees.

The roots of peach trees should be examined for the purpose of removing all the worms which may have eaten in the bark, and all the holes which appear should be searched to their termination, that the worms may not escape.

We wish again to urge upon farmers the great benefit to be derived from the culture of root crops—the amount of cattle food thus obtained is too much overlooked. By good culture many hundred bushels may be safely calculated on, exceeding many times in value a good crop of hay from the same quantity of land. Drilling, instead of sowing, greatly lessens the labor of hoeing.

[Genesee Farmer.]

Agricultural statistics of France and England.—There are about 4,800,000 hectares pasture land in France, and 25,000,000 of arable land. The result is a scarcity of cattle, horses, and mares, and mares. France annually imports horses and cattle to the value of 100,000,000 francs. The following is a comparison of the statistics between France and England:

Horses.	England.
40,000.	170,000.
800,000.	1,250,000.
5,300,000.	10,200,000.

For each million of inhabitants.

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1,000.	13,077.	
20,000.	96,154.	
130,000.	770,000.	

For each million of inhabitants.

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1,667.	32,692.	
33,333.	221,154.	
216,677.	1,961,528.	

Flax Culture for the Seed,

And for seed and lint—its effect on the soil as preparatory for a wheat crop—Flax Mill—Flax pulling Machine, &c.

EDITOR CULTIVATOR.—The culture of flax for the seed only, has been found to be a very profitable branch of rural economy in Seneca County. Flax culture on our clay soils, has the effect to keep the soil loose and porous, so that after the flax is gathered, the stubble needs only half the working necessary to fit an ordinary fallow for wheat. It is the opinion of many sensible farmers, who do not on that account, grow flax, that a flax crop immediately followed by wheat, is too exhausting to the soil for economical husbandry; *per contra*, it is stoutly maintained by others who have successfully grown wheat after flax, that if the soil has not been previously too much worn, wheat will succeed better after flax, than on the summer fallow. It is true that the gluten of the stem and seed of flax, propounds a great assimilation of azotized matter; but the action of the roots of the flax plant on a tenacious soil, seems designed by nature to fit that soil for the reception of ammonia, for which we are told allium has a great affinity; thus nature has given to that plant which requires much nitrogen, the mechanical structure of root, to fit the soil to absorb the constituents of nitrogen and carbon from the atmosphere. The quantum of inorganic matter taken by flax from the soil, (not having seen the analysis) I am unable to determine; but that of all the cereal grains, wheat contains by far the greatest portion of these substances, its straw alone yielding nearly four times as much ashes as the straw of oats, and twice as much as that of barley. Hence, may we not infer that it is to the previous exhaustion of the soil of its wheat forming parent, by previous wheat crops, and not to the alternation of an occasional flax crop, that the wheat product is deteriorated.

About four years ago, a mill for breaking and dressing flax was erected in this village, (Watertown) The enterprising proprietor, Mr. Gardner Wood, has induced many farmers to pull their flax, and to dew rot and save the lint; instead of pursuing the old course of cutting up the flax with the scythe, and appropriating the seed only. To encourage a more general pulling of the flax in order to save the lint, Mr. Wood has procured from the patentee in New Jersey, a flax pulling machine, it is of wood and iron on low wheels, about the bulk of a small wagon, cost \$90, with the right to use it. With the help of this machine, four men have pulled and bunched sixteen acres of flax in four days; but as the machine requires some mechanical tact, and can only be used on a smooth surface, most of the flax intended for dressing, is still pulled by hand.

The success of the Seneca county farmers in making a flax crop a succedaneum for the sun stricken fallow, has induced many farmers in the neighboring counties to adopt its culture. In the town of Hannibal, Oswego Co., a flax dressing mill has just been erected, which will dress this season about 20,000 lbs. of clean flax. Mr. C. Gifford, of the same town, has grown the past season on five acres of land, 58 1/2 bushels of seed, 1,750 lbs. of dressed flax; the flax netted 5 cts. a lb., the seed 9 shillings a bushel. A. Taber, of Ira, Cayuga county, has harvested the past season, 18 1/2 bushels of seed to the acre on nine acres; the lint of the same yielded about 2,500 lbs. of clean flax, worth at tide water, nine cents a lb. The land on which the above crops were grown, was Indian corn stubble, plowed once in the spring, harrowed and sowed late in April, with three pecks of seed to the acre, and harvested as soon as the beans began to change color, which, last season, was about the 20th of July, two weeks earlier than in ordinary seasons. The field of Mr. Taber had never received any animal manures; it was on one of those all fertile alluvial ridges of finely divided matter, so common to the gravelly or rather pebbly loans of the north part of Cayuga, Seneca, and the south division of Wayne county.

S. W. Watertown, N. Y., Feb. 21, 45.

[Albany Cultivator.]

Mixing Soils.

Some nine or ten years ago, in the early part of my farming, I had occasion to deepen a well about six or eight feet. The earth thrown out was a compact blue clay, just damp enough to cut into lumps, and adhesive enough to remain so. After finishing the well, the man who had charge of the farm was at a loss to know where to deposit it. Having a bare sandy knoll in one of the fields, which was not inaptly termed "personal property," from its being washed away by every breeze, here to-day and there to-morrow, it occurred to me that the clay would hold the sand and form a soil. I accordingly ordered it deposited there in heaps, the same as if manure. This was in the summer. In the fall the lumps were scattered over the surface, and left to the action of the rain and frost. In the spring it was found to have broken down, crumbled and shrank like lime. These heaps were reduced and the clay evenly spread over the surface. The field received a coat of manure, was ploughed, and sown with oats and peas. That where the clay was applied produced the largest and most vigorous growth, of any other part of the field. In the fall it was sown with rye, and seeded down with timothy and clover. The rye as well as the clover was much more vigorous and heavier on that any part of the field. In fact, the person who occupied the farm after I left it, informed me that he lost his crop of grass on that part in consequence of its lodging. Thus the personal was made real or fast property, and remains so to the present day.

Having experienced such beneficial effects from mixing clay with sand, I was afterwards induced to try what effect sand would have on a rather retentive soil. The garden at Three Hill Farm, is a stiff clay loam resting on a strong tenacious clay subsoil, rather inclining to moisture. The second year after I purchased and took possession of it, I caused a coat of sand, from six to eight inches depth, to be put on one of the squares, which was deposited with the manure, and I had the satisfaction to witness the most gratifying and happy results—the crop on that square was far superior to any other in the garden. Since then I have caused over five hundred one-horse cart loads of sand to be put in the garden, and the effect is still visible although the sand has disappeared.

[Genesee Farmer.]

The Wheat Trade.

The March number of Hunt's Merchants' Magazine opens with an interesting article on the production of wheat in the United States, from which we gather, that the annual export of flour and wheat (reduced to bushels) to all countries on the globe, from the year 1790 to the present time, has not amounted to 4,500,000 bushels; and for the last 25 years has not amounted to 4,600,000 bushels. The importance of our home market is strikingly illustrated by the fact, that the single State of Massachusetts in the same period, (1812), consumed more flour than was exported to all foreign countries. Thus, maintains the writer in Hunt's Magazine, one customer at home on our own soil, is worth a hundred dead customers in Great Britain. The foreign customer demands supplies from us when driven to it by famine, and the demand may exist for a week or two during a year. The customer at home is a perpetual one, fed by us from week to week and year to year. General Jackson, in his memorable letter to Dr. Coleman, in 1824, uses the following language:—"Take from agriculture 600,000 men, women, and children, and you will at once give a market for our bread-stuffs than all Europe now furnishes." This proposition when boldly made, starting to the unfeeling, and contrary to received notions, is creditable to the old man's penetration and sagacity in the highest degree. Its truth is fully and triumphantly verified by the case of Massachusetts—her 800,000 people furnishing not only a good market as "all Europe now furnishes," but a better than all the world furnishes.

It must be remembered that, while this State produces this enormous consumption of bread-stuffs, still but \$5,166, or less than one-ninth of the whole number engaged in manufactures and trades, reside within her borders. Allow much of this consumption to be caused by fisheries, commerce, or as you please, and allow the manufacturers to consume one-half as much as the rest of the States, and we at once perceive the home, must be equal to five times the foreign demand. It appears, from the annual treasury reports, that our principal customers from abroad are, 1st, Great Britain and her possessions; 2nd, Brazil; 3d, Cuba; yet Massachusetts supplies a market doubly or trebly as good as the former. New Jersey purchases from other States twice as much as Brazil; the whale fisheries, (as single round of supplies for the fleet exceeding 100,000 barrels, while as much is consumed at home during their cruise), a superior market to Cuba; and finally, no other power or dominion on the face of the globe, passing the three mentioned, consumes one-half as much of our bread-stuffs as the city of Boston.

The great controlling fact, that a nation after all consumes most of its production, and finds its best market at home, is set forth in a strong light by Senator Walker in his famous letter in favor of the annexation of Texas. One of his strong arguments is the vast enlargement of a home market. He finds, by the census, that the aggregate production of all branches of industry in the United States is more than \$1,000,000,000, while our annual exports are but about one-tenth of that amount. Let us hear the argument. The friends of a tariff for protection may well exclaim, "as est abhunc docevi," when they hear such arguments from a supposed violent antagonist. "Our exports of domestic products," he says, "by the treasury report of 1840, amounted to \$103,333,896, deducting which from our whole products by the census of 1840, would leave \$95,600,845 of our own products consumed that year by our own population of 17,062,453, and the consumption of our domestic products, \$103,533,896 by the population of the world—900,000,000, would make an average consumption of \$6 in value of our products, consumed by each one of our own people, and 11 cents in value of our products, consumed on the average by each person beyond our limits; and thus it appears that one person within our limits consumes as much of our own products, as 509 persons beyond our limits."

[N. Y. Mirror.]

Reward of Industry and Skill.

pass through a fresh leach of ashes, until there be little or no strength to it, thus saving all that is valuable.

All cannot have a side hill on which to erect an ashery; some must, consequently, build on level ground; but it is not as convenient.

The ashes ought all to be drawn away and spread upon land, as they are emptied from the leach. I have seen hills of leached ashes lying about an old ashery, when the land contiguous would have been doubled in value by having them spread upon it.—Being about to embark in making potash again, I shall anxious wait before doing so, to hear from some manufacturer, through your columns, on this subject, before I commence. I am desirous of availing myself of any improvements on this old method. [Am. Agriculturist.

The Peace-Maker.

Governor Seward was recently called by Rev. Mr. Evans and Dr. Baker of Owasco, to be the arbiter of serious personal difficulties between them. Mr. Seward consented to do so provided they would lay themselves under heavy pecuniary bonds to abide his decision, which they did. At the day appointed, (which was last week,) the parties appeared: as the difficulties had been of long standing, and had involved the Churches somewhat, to which the parties respectively belonged, producing great excitement far and near, a large concourse of people were attracted to the place. The eminent lawyers employed on both sides were in their places, and the Governor took his seat. Some hundred or more witnesses were in attendance, brought from several different Counties. The order of arrangement was that each party should first make a statement of his grievance, and then testimony, pleas of counsel, and decision of the umpire should follow in course.

After Mr. Baker and Mr. Evans had each made his statement, the points in dispute between them seemed so involved, and the difficulty of settling them in a public way, so great, an adjournment was proposed by some of the counsel that the parties might attempt a private adjustment. An appeal was made to the Governor for his decision on the point. He remarked in substance, as follows: "Gentlemen, I regret to disagree with you, as relates to your proposition for an adjournment. In drawing the bond by which the parties are bound, I confess I used some guile; by that bond they are bound not only to pay whatever amount of pecuniary damage I shall name, but they are to do, with respect to each other, whatever I shall require. Convinced that we are as well prepared to close the arbitration at this point, as we shall be if we pursue it further, I here pronounce my decision; it is this: that the parties drop their contention now and forever, and in token thereof, that they now rise before this assembly and shake hands." The words were no sooner spoken than they were both upon their feet and grasped each other's hand like cordial friends.

The Governor then appealed to the multitude of excited spectators, for the equity of his decision, when it was approved unanimously and with acclamation.—Northern Christ. Advocate.

Women in their June.

The early decay of female beauty, consequent on neglect of physical education and the corroding dryness of our climate, has given an American value to the immature April and May of female seasons, and a corresponding depreciation to the riper June. The article which we copy below, from the Brooklyn Star, expresses, we believe, the opinion of the best judges of these exotics from a better world, and emboldens to express a long entertained belief that the most lovable age of unmarried woman's life commences at the earliest at twenty-five, and lasts as long after as she shows no diminution of sensibility, no ravages of time. Women improve so much sooner than men (improve by the loving and suffering that spoils men) that we wonder that they have never found an historic anatomist of their later stages. We suggest it to pens at a loss. Here follow our contemporary's opinions:—N. Y. Mirror.

"My dear sir, if you ever marry, marry an old maid—a good old maid—who is serious, and simple, and true. I hate these double minded Misses, who are all the time hunting after a husband. I tell you that when a woman gets to be twenty-eight, she settles into a calm—rather she anchors in deep waters, and far from shore." There never was a set, or class, or community of persons, so belied as these ancient ladies. Look upon it as no reproach to a woman that is not married at thirty or thirty-five. Above all, fall not into the vulgar notion of romances, and shallow wits—unlearned in woman's heart, because they never had the love of a true woman—that these are continually lying in wait to catch bachelor's hearts. For one woman who has floated into the calm of her years, who is anxious to fix you, I will find you fifty maidens in their teens, and just out, who lay a thousand snares to entrap you, and with more cold blooded intent for which is worse, that one of singleness of purpose should seek to lead upon you for life, or that one should seek you as a lover, to excite jealousy in others, or as a last resort?

Marry a healthy, well-bred woman, between twenty-eight and thirty-five, who is inclined to love you, and never bewildered your brains with suspicions about whether she has intentions on you or not. This is the rock of vanity upon which many a man has wrecked his best feelings and truest inclinations. Our falsehood of society, and more than all, the false hollow tone of language upon the subject, leave very little courage for a strait forward and independent course in the matter. What matter if a woman likes you, and shows that she does, honestly and wishes to marry you? the more reason for self congratulation but not for vanity. What matter if she be young or not, so she be lovable? I won't say what matter if she be plain or not—for every body knows that it is no matter though it may have some business in determining the sentiment. I don't know what has led me into this course of remark. The last thing I should have expected, on sitting down to write, is that I should have fallen into a lecture on matrimony. I am not an old maid myself, yet; but I have a clearer eye to their virtues than I have had, and begin to feel how dignified a woman may be in her loneliness—and the fairer for that loneliness! You may think it is bespeaking favor and patience with a revenge.

TO THE CHIEF OF THE CHIEFS.—The delegation appointed by the National Council left Tahlequah for Washington on the 1st instant. It consists of John Ross, Joseph Vann, David Vann, and some others.

Col. Washington and Col. Amistead of the board of commissioners on the part of the United States, brought their labor to a close and left Tahlequah for Fort Gibson on the 28th of March.

The claims examined by them amounted to more than three millions of dollars, which the Cherokee Advocate hopes will be speedily settled for by the Government.

A large meeting was held at Tahlequah on the 24th of March, at which it was resolved that measures be taken to obtain from the U. S. Government, a speedy abandonment of Fort Gibson and removal of the U. S. Troops from the Cherokee territory.

[Boston Bee.

LARGE FUNERAL.—The body of John Gordon, recently executed at Providence, was taken, Sunday, to Pawtucket, for interment, followed by four or five thousand people, and fifty or sixty carriages. His brother Nicholas S. Gordon, now at large on bail, followed the body as chief mourner.

"Quack, quack, quack!" The mandarin, with equal brevity, replied with a shake of his head, "Bow, bow, bow." Mr. Cushing's feelings can be imagined.

TOO GOOD.—It is said that Mr. Cushing on being asked to dine with M. and M. Lin, discovered on the table something of which he was exorbitantly thinking it to be duck. Not speaking Chinese, and wishing to know what it was, he pointed to it, after he had finished, saying to his host interrogatively, "Quack, quack, quack?" The mandarin, with equal brevity, replied with a shake of his head, "Bow, bow, bow." Mr. Cushing's feelings can be imagined.

Maine Farmer.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1845.

Gross Frauds in the Importation of Manufactured Silk.

The practice of the Custom House, of receiving manufactured silk for a duty of fifty cents, when it should pay two dollars and fifty, ought to be known by the people, and then the people should see that such exponents of the law should give place to honest men. The law in regard to manufactured silk expressly says, that silk in the gum should be admitted at a much less duty than that not in the gum. By "gum," every old woman who has ever seen a cocoon reeled, knows that the gum of the silk worm is meant, or in other words, raw silk, as this always has a natural gum adhering to it. Now the English manufacture all kinds of threads and twists, and then dip them into some sort of gum, or glue, and ship them to us. The wisecracks of the department have decided that this is "silk in the gum," it must be admitted at the low duty. The importer takes it, frees it of the glue, colors it, glut the market with it, to the great damage of the American silk grower. We think this is gumming us with a vengeance.

THE STRANGERS.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that at a meeting of the President and Directors of the new line, a vote was passed directing the Captain of the steamer John Marshall, not to race said boat under any circumstances. It will also be seen that no intoxicating drinks are allowed to the hands working said boat, or to passengers on board of her, except in case of sickness.

So far as liquor is concerned, we believe that none has been kept on board any of the boats on the Kennebec for several years past, for other than medicinal purposes. This is as it should be.

As to racing, the arrangement is a good one, and we trust it will be strictly adhered to. If one line refuses (*and sticks to it*) to race, or crowd on more than a safe head of steam, of course the other will do the same thing; because there will be no competition in racing, and it is not likely that any one boat will try to outrun itself. We have confidence in the skill of the officers of both boats, as we also have in the staunchness of the boats themselves; and we hope both lines will behave themselves becomingly, looking to the convenience and comfort of passengers, as well as to their own interest.

FOXCROFT ACADEMY.—We have received from our friend Chamberlain, one of the Trustees, a catalogue of the Officers and Students of Foxcroft Academy, for the spring term of 1845. Thus must be a very flourishing institution. They have three instructors—Mr. T. Tash, A. B., Principal—Mr. J. G. Clark, and Miss Abbie B. Smith, Assistants.—The number of scholars, are as follows:—young gentlemen, 88; young ladies, 68; total, 156. The course of studies are excellent, and the expenses very reasonable.

SCHOOL GIRLS' OFFERING.—This is the title of a very modest, but very worthy manuscript periodical, that makes its appearance, every week, among the young ladies of Mr. Foster's High School at Winthrop. We have been favored with a perusal of several of the numbers, and must say they evince a good deal of talent and industry. Such exercises of the mind are invaluable to the young. They improve and strengthen the mental faculties, and draw out and discipline the talents, and prepare them for usefulness in the active life of the future.

HOVEY'S CATALOGUE OF TREES, SHRUBS, &c. We thank the Messrs. Hovey for the favor of the catalogue which they had the goodness to send us. They have a very fine nursery near Boston, and a seed store at No. 7, Merchants' Row, Boston.

WEBSITE.—We have received from their Magazines that they have received, and for sale, some new and valuable varieties of garden seeds, such as Emperor cucumber, 18 to 24 inches long—New Bassano beets, very early and tender—some new varieties of cauliflower, &c. &c.

JUST AS THE TWIG IS BENT.—A man named Twig was recently tarred and feathered, and put into a canoe without oars, at Point Copee, Louisiana, for having committed an infamous crime.—Query—will that Twig incline to tar and feathers when he gets to be a tree?

A MUSLIN FACTORY.—Col. Bowditch, it is said, is building a muslin factory, in Georgetown, D. C.—We believe that there are not many such factories in the United States.

WORTH SMELLING.—Some "owier" generous soul in Mobile, threw a bouquet on the stage, during the performance of a lady actress on the evening of her benefit, containing a diamond ring and a complimentary note. We should like a few such posies as that.

WHOLESALE BUTCHERY.—An exchange paper states that Mr. Chiles, of Harrodsburg, Ky., lost twenty fine wool breeding ewes in one night by dogs. We should be tempted to bait those dogs with a little *drychnine* in the mutton. There would soon be as little barking in those diggings, as there was barking.

FOOLS AND THEIR MONEY.—Twenty thousand dollars are lost on a race between two old horses, on Long Island, on the 12th of May next. One of them is called Fashion, and the other Peyton.

FROM THE CHEROKEE COUNTRY.—The delegation appointed by the National Council left Tahlequah for Washington on the 1st instant. It consists of John Ross, Joseph Vann, David Vann, and some others.

Col. Washington and Col. Amistead of the board of commissioners on the part of the United States, brought their labor to a close and left Tahlequah for Fort Gibson on the 28th of March.

The claims examined by them amounted to more than three millions of dollars, which the Cherokee Advocate hopes will be speedily settled for by the Government.

A large meeting was held at Tahlequah on the 24th of March, at which it was resolved that measures be taken to obtain from the U. S. Government, a speedy abandonment of Fort Gibson and removal of the U. S. Troops from the Cherokee territory.

[Boston Bee.

LARGE FUNERAL.—The body of John Gordon, recently executed at Providence, was taken, Sunday, to Pawtucket, for interment, followed by four or five thousand people, and fifty or sixty carriages. His brother Nicholas S. Gordon, now at large on bail, followed the body as chief mourner.

TOO GOOD.—It is said that Mr. Cushing on being

Editorial Scribblings.

BY "SHEEPSFOOT."

To Dig, or not to Dig;

That's the question shortly to be decided by the voters of Augusta; and in deciding this, in our humble opinion, they will give their decision on the important question whether 'tis best to grow and prosper, or not to grow and prosper. A penniless boy, if he expects to amass property and rise in the world, must dig his way up; and a poor town, or State, or country, if it desires to increase its business and thus augment its property, must dig to accomplish it; and Augusta, wealthy as she may be, and doing as much business as she now is, (which is nothing to brag of,) if she wishes immediately to increase her wealth and her business, must dig (that's the word) to bring about these desirable ends. There's no getting away from this: Uncle Sam has refused to dig for us here on the Kennebec, as he has dug for other members of his numerous family; and as delays are dangerous, and there is no hope of our Uncle ever changing his views and lending us a helping hand, we think it best for us to rise in our might, and let him see that we can dig for ourselves, and build ourselves up to a manly stature as regards business, and, consequently, wealth. In fact, we do not know but Uncle Sam has served us about right, though we don't exactly relish his partiality. It may be, after all, that he has acted as prudent and wise father, sometimes act toward their children, and withheld the aiding hand for our own good, that we might be compelled to be industrious, and earn for ourselves an honorable reputation, and a prominent standing in the Union of which we are a component fraction. If such be the fact, (and perhaps we may as well consider it so, and, for the sake of peace with the old gentleman, not make allegations to the contrary,) we ought to thank him for his wisdom, and be sure so to act as not to thwart the good designs of his wise forethought,—so to act that all may be necessarily compelled to acknowledge that we have been compelled to be industrious, and earn for ourselves an honorable reputation, and a prominent standing in the Union of which we are a component fraction. If such be the fact, (and perhaps we may as well consider it so, and, for the sake of peace with the old gentleman, not make allegations to the contrary,) we ought to thank him for his wisdom, and be sure so to act as not to thwart the good designs of his wise forethought,—so to act that all may be necessarily compelled to acknowledge that we have been compelled to be industrious, and earn for ourselves an honorable reputation, and a prominent standing in the Union of which we are a component fraction.

The present Legislature, at its late session, was petitioned, by a large body of citizens, for the passage of an act authorizing the town of Augusta, if *she should vote to do*, to hire money to the amount of ten thousand dollars, and to pay the same by levying a tax of five hundred dollars (or such sum as the town might agree upon) per year, for the purpose of digging deeper and wider the channel of the Kennebec at several points between here and Gardiner, so that the larger class of vessels and steamboats might come up without difficulty. This petition was listened to, and an act to the effect was passed, as was granted. A town meeting will probably soon be called for the purpose of receiving a public expression of the views of our townsmen relative to the matter,—to ascertain whether or not they feel disposed to accept the act, and go ahead with, and consummate, the project. Let them, before deciding the matter at the ballot-box, give it a thorough investigation, and not vote blindly upon the impulse of the moment. If, after such an investigation, they become convinced that the accomplishment of it would add to the prosperity of the town,—would be beneficial to *all* the people of the town,—would augment the amount of business of the various kinds carried on,—would benefit the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, and all others, they will of course vote to carry forward the project; but if they come to a different conclusion, they will vote correspondingly.

Some have their doubts as to the constitutionality or legality of thus raising money for such a purpose. We look at the matter in this light: what the people will, in their sanity, is right,—and if the people of Augusta vote to tax themselves to raise funds to accomplish any particular and desirable work, that is right; and so long as they ask no favors from others, no one can justly find fault. There are many examples of this manner of raising money for like purposes, that might be named. Some advance the idea that, if consummated, it will not benefit only the few real-estate owners in the village, and will tend to make the rich still richer, without aiding and benefiting others. Perhaps this is a correct view of the subject, but it don't strike us as such. We are of the opinion that it must inevitably redound to the benefit of all classes. How stands the case now with the farmer? He does not receive so much for his potatoes at this port as they bring at ports below us, for the simple reason that masters find it difficult to sail their vessels safely to this place, consequently the demand for transportation is comparatively small, and prices correspondingly low. The same may be said of wood and bark and lumber. We have been told that the article of bark brings fifty cents more per cord a few miles below us, for the above reasons, that it does here. Let Augusta be made the head of navigation for large vessels and steamboats, and business of all kinds would receive a healthy impulse. Our commercial and manufacturing and trading population would undoubtedly increase,—which would give employment to mechanics and laborers, and afford a greater market to farmers.

We are informed that the expense of clearing out the channel as is contemplated, cannot possibly exceed the amount asked for; and those who have taken the trouble to investigate the subject thoroughly, and to learn the prices paid by Uncle Sam for digging, are of the opinion that it will not require that sum. We trust the people will give this matter the thought and attention that its importance seems to demand, and act as they, in their wisdom, may deem for the present and future interest of themselves and posterity. So thought it be.

WALKING 'EM.—The new administration at head quarters don't fancy many of the appointments made by "Captain Tyler" during his last days at the White House, and so President Polk is making removals and appointments no ways slow. Some of the Democratic prints say that he ought to remove every mother's son of 'em, who took office under Mr. Tyler. In this State, we perceive that he is making a pretty clean sweep of the Tyler Democrats, and filling their places with others.

IRON VESSEL.—It is stated in the papers that the first iron vessel built in the New England States, is the Revenue Cutter McLane, launched at South Boston on the 19th ult. It is 142 feet 9 inches long, and 23 feet 2 inches wide—burthen, 374 tons. Iron vessels are becoming quite numerous. They will not be introduced into this woody region very soon.

BRUSHING UP.—The Portland Transcript has cast aside his old garments, and appears out in a new and beautiful dress. All new—hat, coat, vest, pants, and boots, and all the other little niceties which go to make up the perfect gentleman. Success to you, Mr. Transcript.

The Bangor Daily Whig has also undergone a metamorphosis, and comes to us much enlarged, and somewhat improved in personal appearance. We hope its prosperity will keep pace with its growth and improvement.

ARTHUR'S MAGAZINE.—The May number of this popular periodical is before us. Like its predecessors, it "opens rich," being embellished with two fine engravings, and stored with its usual quantity (45 pages) of excellent reading matter.

BIG CALF.—A writer in the last week's Banner states that a cow, the property of Mr. Soule Staples of Turner, brought a male calf the week before, and don't sleep o' nights, for fear they'll wake up in the morning and find their purses a few coppers lighter than they were when they retired. Riches, like sin, breed trouble,—and trouble is trouble, and that's the end on't!

He thinks the Kennebecks can't beat this, and if they can, would like to see them about it.

Commendable.

Many of the citizens of New York city, met at the Tabernacle on Tuesday night of last week, for the commendable purpose of making arrangements to raise funds for the relief of the thousands of sufferers by the late conflagration at Pittsburgh, an account of which we gave last week. Mayor Harper presided, and speeches were made by several distinguished gentlemen. Resolutions of a sympathetic and commendatory tone, were presented and adopted; and a committee appointed, consisting of some seventy influential citizens, to canvass the city, and receive such donations for the sufferers as persons might feel disposed to give. The Mayor stated that Mr. Astor, the millionaire, had already been visited, and had cheerfully subscribed five hundred dollars; and it is thought probable that his son will give as much more. New York remembers her own great calamitous visitation by fire, and will undoubtedly make up a purse which will be of great relief to the destitute of Pittsburgh, who have been stripped of house and home, large numbers of whom are now compelled to huddle together in churches and other public buildings for shelter. Philadelphia and other cities have already contributed much for their relief, and by so doing have called down upon their heads the grateful thanks of the distressed, and, without doubt, the approving smiles of Heaven.

OH! THE PESKY CORSETS!—Ladies, look this moment, and read what is said of you and your suicidal practice of using corsets. Only read the following facts, which we clip from an old paper, printed some twelve years since. "Dr. Mussey says that greater numbers annually die among the female sex by the use of the corset, than are destroyed among the other sex by the use of spirituous liquors in the same time! It has been estimated that more than fifty thousand die in the United States every year, in consequence of the immoderate use of ardent spirits. For fear of being accused of exaggerating upon this fearful subject, let it be stated that thirty thousand die in this country every year in consequence of corsets. This is doubtless below the number which should be set down; but it makes enough to excite the attention of every head of a family and of every well-wisher of the human race. Thirty thousand a year makes eighty-four for every day in the year, sacrificed at the cruel altar of fashion. This we venture to say is a sacrifice of lives which knows no parallel." Scissors! what self-destructing beings the fair ones are! Ah! ye fairy ones of earth, little do ye think that gearing and means you employ to metamorphose the forms that the omnipotent one has seen fit to give you, into shapes to attract the eye and please the fancy of silly men,—are bane to life, and will react on yourselves like the gun.

"Which though well aimed at duck or plover, Beau wide, and kicks its owner over." But all the while the bane rests not on your shoulders; for ye are easily flattened, and are inclined to please; and as silly men (silly in this respect at least) are constantly praising your "heavenly forms," both in story and in your hearing, you are led astray from the road of health, and sacrifice your lives at the altar of fashion, for what?—to please men, and tickle your own vanity. It may be there has been as much change in this matter as there has been in liquor drinking, since the calculations of Dr. Mussey made. At least, we hope so.

POWER OF MUSIC.—That good music, instrumental or vocal, at certain

Late from Mexico.

The steamship Alabama, arrived at New Orleans from Havana, brings later intelligence from Mexico, brought by the British packet at Havana from Vera Cruz.

We subjoin such particulars of Mexican affairs as we find in our Havana exchanges. They are of great importance, and are nearly a week later than we have received direct. Gen. Almonte's communication of the passage of the measure of annexation, though not unexpected, produced very considerable excitement in the capital. On the 22d of March, Senor Cuevas, the present Minister of Foreign Relations, addressed a circular to the Governors of the different Departments, in which he announces this intelligence. He goes on to say that the Executive Government and the Chambers are occupied with the discussion of the grave interests involved in the question. He appeals to the patriotism of the authorities of the Departments and all their citizens, to forget all divisions, and to stand by the President, and co-operate with him in defence of the rights and the honor of the nation. He promises to communicate promptly to the different Departments the measures which may be resolved upon at the capital.

Upon the reception of official notification of the passage of the Annexation resolutions, a very stormy session was held in the House of Deputies, during which propositions of a hostile character were submitted and canvassed, without, however, any decisive vote being taken thereon. The policy of issuing letters of marque was brought up in this debate.

El Siglo (of Mexico) on the 29th ult. contains a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Cuevas) to Mr. Shannon, United States Minister at Mexico, informing him that the Government was in possession of the knowledge of the passage of the annexation resolutions, and that diplomatic relations between the two countries were suspended on that account. The same day a note was addressed by the Mexican Cabinet to the Ministers of Spain, France, and England, protesting against the proceedings of the United States in relation to Texas.

The Bulletin says—At a secret session of the House, it was proposed to close immediately all communication with the United States, to prohibit the introduction of her cotton and manufactures, and issue letters of marque. The proposition, however, was not definitely acted on; and no steps appear to have been taken beyond sending protests to the representatives of England and France, and an address to the Governors of Departments, advising them to be prepared for whatever contingencies may arise.

The Siglo consoles itself with the idea that Texas may not accept the resolutions.

Several very severe shocks of an earthquake were felt in both Vera Cruz and Oaxaca; they commenced at nine in the morning, and lasted until half past five in the evening.

Mr. J. P. Schatzell has been recognized as American Consul at Matamoras.—[N. O. Picayune.

SANTA ANNA. The late information in regard to the fallen dictator is the following:

Santa Anna still remained a prisoner at Perole, awaiting the action of his judges. The treatment he received was much mitigated. Indeed, it is not considered improbable that, under the pretence of prosecuting a war with the United States, he may yet be invested with the command of the army and through that means reinstate himself in power. On the 24th February, the Grand Jury and both branches of Congress presented for his trial a bill to impeach him. His hitherto defence had been sent to form the Grand Jury, in point of its tone, and bold and haughty in its defiance—the language rather of a dictator than a prisoner, and in such striking contrast to the humble tone of his previous letters, as to warrant the belief that Santa Anna expects to be restored to liberty and power.

No absolute judgment had been pronounced upon him; but a joint Commission of the two Houses had refused his request to be allowed to abdicate the Presidency and to leave the country. The difficulty with the prosecuting officers, appears to be under what character to proceed against him, he having acted under the orders of Canarizo during the critical events of the revolution, as a simple General of Division. The Generals and chiefs who accompanied Santa Anna in his last struggle against the Government, have been ordered to Puebla to be tried there.

Later. The Congress, constituted in a grand jury, have bro't in a true bill against Santa Anna, and his trial is going on with all haste. The general opinion is that he will be condemned to death. Gen. Reyes, his minister of war, has been condemned to a loss of his rank and his pay for ten years, for signing the order which placed Santa Anna in command of the troops which marched against Paredes, and which followed Santa Anna to the last.

Gen. Canarizo will also be condemned to death, beyond any doubt; and Gen. Basadre, minister of war under Reyes, will no doubt share the same fate as his predecessor.

A federal government will no doubt shortly prove to be the result of this last revolution unless Texas matters should interrupt things.

OREGON EMIGRATION. We understand that a large number of emigrants are congregated at Independence preparatory to their emigration to Oregon. There are two separate companies organized, and they will start about the 20th of April. They number about one thousand persons, and have a good supply of wagons and animals. All the houses in Independence were filled, and a large number were encamped in tents in the vicinity.

At St. Joseph's, in the Platte country, there was another large company, with about 220 wagons.—They expected to start about the same time as the company from Independence.

Another company, with about thirty-five wagons, was assembled at another point on the river.

It was supposed that considerable accessions would be made to these companies before their departure.

Lieut. Fremont is about to start on another exploring expedition beyond the mountains, and 150 young men were at Independence engaged to go with him. They were furnished with horses and equipped for their journey. The term of their engagement is two years, and the company should repair to the frontier immediately. The companies are very particular to preserve the character of the expedition. No person is permitted to join an emigrating company until he has undergone an examination, and if he be a criminal, a refugee from justice, or a man of infamous character, he is excluded. [St. Louis New Era, April 15th.]

PHILADELPHIA. The police affairs of Philadelphia appear to be badly regulated. The Philadelphia papers of the 21st ult. contain the following paragraphs:

Shocking state of affairs. From all appearance a system of burking is now being carried on in our city, which is unparalleled in the history of this or any other country.

A few days ago we recorded the sudden disappearance of Mr. Wildash, from Wayne co., and now are called to state another case of similar nature. Mr. John T. Kirk, who came to this city from Wilmington, on business, on Saturday evening a week since, left the house of Wm. A. Ginder, in Southwark, to go to Jenk's foundry in Kensington, and since then has never been heard of. He was known to have about \$700 to his name.

Serious Riot. Yesterday afternoon a fight of the most disgraceful character occurred in the neighborhood of South and Eighth streets. Several persons were injured. The police succeeded in taking three of the rioters, who were confined in the watch-house.

NAVAL. The U. S. steam frigate Princeton, Capt. R. F. Stockton, left Philadelphia about 10 o'clock on Monday, for Norfolk.

In noticing the report from Jamaica, of the loss of a United States schooner of war on the coast of St. Bias, we have fears that there may be some cause for the rumor, as the U. S. schooner Shark is on the Pacific station, and may have met with some accident while cruising on the coast of Mexico, off St. Bias. She is the only United States man-of-war schooner now employed in the Pacific Ocean.

[U. S. Gazette.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN ROXBURY.—Webber's extensive ropewalk establishment in Roxbury was destroyed by fire yesterday, with all its contents. The fire occurred about a quarter past one o'clock, and was occasioned by the bursting of the steam-boiler, and the flames spread over the loose cotton and hemp with the rapidity of lightning. Five small houses immediately adjoining the ropewalk, and inhabited by Irishmen who worked in the walk, and their families, caught fire and were also consumed. One of them was a two-story tenement, and we learn that it was the first which caught from the ropewalk, the names communicating to the lower part, and it was also rumored that a woman and two children who were in the attic, had time to escape, and were buried to death. We hope that the report may prove untrue. We have not learned the amount of loss.—[Boston Courier.

FIREMAN SHOT.—A bricklayer named John Burns, about twenty-five years of age, was shot from a house at the corner of Broad and Fitzwater streets, Moyamensing, about ten o'clock, on Saturday night, and died at the Pennsylvania Hospital yesterday afternoon, at two o'clock. A disturbance created by a party of ruffians, who infest the neighborhood, led to the murder. Five Irishmen who were in the house out of which the gun was fired were arrested and have been committed. Burns was a member of the Franklin Hose Company, and was some months ago pardoned by Governor Porter out of the penitentiary, where he had been sent by the Criminal Court for fire rioting. He leaves a wife. The occurrence created much excitement. The inmates of the house, named Patrick, Ragan, Sylvester Phillips, John Bresnan, James Kay, and Archibald Mulholland, were arrested and committed.—[Philadelphia paper.

FATAL AFFAIR.—On Monday, the 31st ult., John Hixon was shot dead a short distance from Benton, Miss., by his father-in-law, Lewis Lott. Hixon, it seems, had maltreated his wife, who had sought refuge in his father's house, when Hixon had been forbidden, in consequence of which he threatened violence upon the persons of his wife, Mr. Lott, and other members of his family. According to the report, on that day, he rode to Mr. Lott's house, armed with a loaded gun, and demanded his child, and told the inmates that unless his request was complied with he would put his threats into execution, at the same time attempting to ride his horse into the house; when, upon his refusal to desist, at the earnest request of all present, Mr. Lott shot him. Mr. Lott immediately delivered himself up to the officers of justice, was tried and acquited.

MISSING PACKETS.—We learn from Captain Foss, of the ship Norman of Boston, arrived at this port on Monday from Mobile, that on his outward passage from New Orleans to Liverpool, on the 12th, and 13th and 14th of December, he experienced the hurricane which the packets United States and England were supposed to have been lost in. He never experienced anything like it before, and his vessel received a good deal of damage. On the 19th or 20th, a long, strong, boisterous gale passed several pieces of a wreck, a long, sky-light, boisterous hatch, pieces of boards painted white, &c., &c.—such articles as would have belonged to a packet ship—and Capt. Foss has no doubt that they belonged to the Norman.—[N. Y. Express.

The Division located in this town meets every Wednesday evening; those of Hallowell and Gardiner, every Tuesday evening.

Boston Flour and Grain Market, April 26.

Flour.—Genuine \$4.574 for good common brands; Troy \$4.75 & lb. 1000 lbs Ohio, \$4.75; St. Louis \$4.75, cash. Georgetown common at \$4. Corn Meal at \$4.56 & lb.

Grain.—Corn, good mealing yellow flat, 50 @ 32c.; white, 47 @ 38c.; superior round yellow at 54 @ 55c.; Prime heavy oats continue scarce, sales Southern common, 32c.; Northern 34.

Brighton Market, April 21.

At Market, 550 Beef Cattle, 15 pairs of Working Oxen, 300 Sheep, and 22 Swine.

Prices.—**Beef Cattle.**—A few extra \$6; first quality \$5.50 @ 5.75; second quality \$3.25 @ 5.50; third quality \$4.50 @ 5.

Working Oxen.—Sales at \$65 to \$88.

Swine.—Lots to pay 4d for Sows, and 5d @ 5c. for Barrows; old Hogs, selected, 5d @ 5c.

See Report of Commissioners of Patents, page 400. [Portland] Advertiser.

THE END OF ICARUS.—The "deposits" are exhausted, the "bank" is broken, and "no effects" is the answer returned to every ship which now visits the island. We saw a letter, yesterday, written from Icarus, on the 1st ult., by a ship captain. He has not been able, he said, to raise a single ounce of guano.—[Gateshead (Eng.) Observer.

We are informed that the merchants of this city are already availing themselves of the benefits of the law, passed at the late session of Congress, allowing the sale of the surplus of the products of the state to the United States, as a simple General of Division.

Santa Anna expects to be restored to liberty and power.

No absolute judgment had been pronounced upon him; but a joint Commission of the two Houses had refused his request to be allowed to abdicate the Presidency and to leave the country.

"Our wheat can be carried to Canada and under Canadian duty. One House here, shipped during the last summer and fall, 36,000 bushels of wheat, which was ground at St. Catherine, on the Welland Canal, and shipped to London under contract.

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Messrs. Gerrish & Edwards.—In the last report of the Commissioner of Patents, in connexion with other valuable matter, I find the following, which would seem to throw some light upon the benefits to be anticipated from our contemplated Rail Road.

The Commissioner of Patents, having addressed a line to the collector of customs, at Cleveland, Ohio, received the following reply:

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See Report of Commissioners of Patents, page 400. [Portland] Advertiser.

THE END OF ICARUS.—The "deposits" are exhausted, the "bank" is broken, and "no effects" is the answer returned to every ship which now visits the island. We saw a letter, yesterday, written from Icarus, on the 1st ult., by a ship captain. He has not been able, he said, to raise a single ounce of guano.—[Gateshead (Eng.) Observer.

We are informed that the merchants of this city are already availing themselves of the benefits of the law, passed at the late session of Congress, allowing the sale of the surplus of the products of the state to the United States, as a simple General of Division.

Santa Anna expects to be restored to liberty and power.

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The Muse.

Good Night.

FROM THE GERMAN.

Good night, my father dear!
Thou com'st from thy labor full weary and worn,
But peaceful and calm in the cottager's bower.
No care for the morrow thy dreams shall encumber,
But, till the lark shall arouse thee at morn,
Good night!

Good night, my mother dear!
Thy lullaby has oft my sorrows beguiled—
Now may our God have thee in his good keeping,
Angels watch over thee while thou art sleeping,
Soothed by repose by the voice of thy child—
Good night!

Good night, brother mine!
Soft be thy slumber, as if pillow'd on flowers at play;
Sleep or waking, God keep thee from sorrow!
Sweet is their parent who meets on the morrow;
Ever, dear brother, such parting be ours;
Good night!

Good night, sister sweet!
Then com'st thou long with the flowers at play;
Hie to thy couch, as thy eye lids are wrinkled;
And see where the moon as to rest she is sinking,
Smiles on my sister, and seemeth to say—
Good night!

Good night, beloved one!
Bright be the visions sleep bringeth to thee—
Heaven bright thee from ill till the night hours are over,
All thy spirits above thy rest hover,
Whispering ever, beloved of me—
Good night!

Good night, dear ones!
No heart feeleth sad that we part for a while;
Thee at our last parting, oh! let us not sorrow,
Since we know, dearest friends, we shall meet on the morrow—
Good night!

But as life's evening closes, we repeat a smile,
Good night!

The Story Teller.

From the Portland Transcript.

The Rescue.

A Tale of the Woods of Maine.

BY CHARLES F. ISLEY.

CONCLUDED.

CHAPTER IV.

As the young men stood side by side gazing thoughtfully on the rippling stream, a hand was laid on the shoulder of each, and a low voice whispered in their ear.

"Hush, not a word! They are there—follow me."

Turning, they followed the scout, who crept softly up the stream until they reached the outlet of the pond, when, stealing round a jutting crag which effectually concealed them from the opposite shore, they halted, and in a subdued tone the scout related his discoveries.

"I have been among the serpents, and had it not been for the gals' safety I would have crushed one of the reptiles, for I had him at my mercy. It was a sore temptation, I tell you. There are but five of them, the rest have not arrived, or have gone off on some other divinity. I saw the gals, too, and they seemed to be in pretty good case. Ah! that Kate is a bright one!"

"Did you speak to her?" asked Sands, with a feeling and tone of deep interest.

"Speak to her!—that would have been no easy matter, youngster, with two of the varmints within earshot. No, no, Hunting Joe is not a gossiping old woman—he is too old to run his head in such a trap!"

"But you contrived to let her know that friends were at hand?" rejoined Smith.

"Speak low, boy, the red skins have quick ears, and sound travels pesky far and fast in a still night like this. Deaf in the world and dumb in the woods is a maxim I learnt 'a'ly in life. Yes, I let 'em know that the old scout was on their trail."

"How did you manage it?" asked Smith.

"Wal, if you must know, and as we have a little time to spare, I'll tell ye." He then went on to state, that, after creeping through the woods and finding out that the Indians were there, and the position of the captives, he stole round to a clump of bushes directly behind a small knoll on which they were seated. "When I got there," said he, "I was within a few feet of them; but 'twas a dangerous job to attract their attention, for I could see the dark reptiles coiled round in the open space in front, ready for a spring. The snapping of a limb or the snapping of a twig would have aroused them. I had the comb you found, with me, and by a slight throw I tossed it into Kate's lap. It struck the gal's hand, and I expected her surprise would give the alarm, but except a slight start, she showed not the least consternation. Bending down her head she whispered a word or two to her sister, and then secretly made a sign, giving me to understand that all was right. Ah, she is a quick witted crittur, that gal," added the scout in conclusion, "and I'll save her if I die for it."

"Well, what plan have you fixed upon?" asked one of the young men, as he concluded his narration.

The old man remained silent for a while, as if revolving the matter in his mind.

"It's a risky business—but I don't see as we can do better," he at last said, as if speaking to himself. "If you were as well acquainted with the woods as I am," he continued, addressing his companions, "we might creep among the enemy and take them by surprise, for they seem to be unsuspecting of an attack. But there's too much at stake, for if they should be alarmed the gals would be tomahawked to a dead-sarturity. It is my opinion that they will stay where they be to-night, and start 'arly in the morning up the lake, as I detected three canoe hid among the bushes. Now, what I think on is this—to get possession of their canoes—destroy one, let you have the second to bring off the the young women in, and I will take the other to act as sarcumstances may turn up."

"When shall we start?" asked Sands.

"It's about time to be moving, I s'pose," said the scout, "the moon will be up in two or three hours, and we must get them out of their clutches before them."

So saying, he commenced stripping off his garments, adding—"To save a long tramp, I must take to the water. You will stay here till I come back. Don't move about, and if you must talk, speak in whispers, for the slightest noise might betray us."

With this caution, having laid aside his garments, he entered the water, and in a moment was lost to sight, as he swam rapidly but noiselessly away, leaving scarcely a ripple in his wake.

CHAPTER V.

The distance to the opposite shore was, perhaps, an eighth of a mile. With long, slow strokes the scout urged his way through the placid waters, his head low to the surface—at

times floating motionless, while his certain glance and quick ear were on the alert—then propelling himself along with renewed caution, until he approached the opposite bank, which rose somewhat abruptly, covered with a dense growth of tall bushes. Gliding into their deep shadows, he soon found the object of his search.

It required all the cunning and adroitness he was master of, after he had reached his prizes to launch them in the water, fasten them together and tow them from the neighborhood.

Having got them afloat, he fastened them in a line, and hugging the deep shadows cast by the overhanging foliage, he went some distance up before he shot out into the bosom of the lake. Dipping his paddle so as not to disturb the quiet of the water, and crouching low in the canoe, he finally succeeded in transferring his prizes in safety to the spot where his young partizans were anxiously awaiting the issue of the adventure.

"Privateersmen talk of cutting out craft from under the guns of an enemy," said the scout, in a jocose tone, as he deliberately ran his knife through the frail material of one of his prizes, which he had taken on shore, gashing large holes in various parts of its bottom, "can they boast of a better cutting out than this?" and he gave the finishing stroke to his work of destruction.

"Now boys," he added, "see to your prisms—shake out the old ones, for the dews may have dampened the powder and a flash in the pan may prove your death."

The captives did as they were bid, moving with the gentlest caution, until they reached the narrow passage in the bushes which led from the opening, when the scout stopped but motioned them forward.

"I must stay here," he whispered to them as they crept by him, "guard your retreat; for the present we must drag ourselves along a piece under the shelter of these bushes. Don't hurry—move coolly and deliberately, and when you let go the branches, mind and not let them jerk back, but slip gently out of your hand."

With these whispered cautions the scout forced his canoe close in with the bushes, dragging it carefully along and followed by the young men, who were admonished from time to time by expressive signals to be on their guard.

For a long distance they proceeded in this manner, and so adroitly did the old man make his way, that scarcely the motion of a twig or the rustling of a leaf betrayed his movements.

When he at last reached what he considered a safe distance, he struck out into the lake with his paddle, and ere long, with his companions, reached the shelter of the foliage of the opposite side. Abandoning the paddles, they adopted the same method as at first, and when you let go the branches, mind and not let them jerk back, but slip gently out of your hand."

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It was the scout's rifle," said Sands, in a panting voice, "one of the savages has hit the dust!" and with an extra effort he sent the canoe with accelerated speed through the water.

Not another word was uttered until they reached the spot designated by the scout, where they drew the canoe carefully under the clustering foliage, which bent over so as to completely conceal them from the most prying eye.

Here they felt comparatively safe, and in low whispers congratulated themselves on their escape.

Their thoughts and anxieties were now centered on the scout, for they felt that their ultimate safety depended on his skill. They had not been long in their covert when they detected the sound of a faint ripple in the water, and almost in the same moment a canoe shot swiftly by in their hiding place. It contained but one person, and as it passed, a low whisper reached their ears—"Be still for your lives!" and man and bark were lost in darkness.

But a minute or two intervened when they were again startled by the hurried dip of paddles, and presently another canoe containing four savages darted by farther out in the lake, dragging his canoe into the grass, and then moved stealthily towards the foe, followed by Sands, who accompanied him a short distance, to the edge of a slight opening, where he beckoned him to stop, while he glided with a noiseless step into the open space and disappeared behind a thick growth of bushes.

CHAPTER VI.

The Indians had halted in a small opening in the forest close by the outlet. In the full confidence that all danger from pursuit was over, they had relaxed from their usual watchfulness over their prisoners, and instead of keeping them by their sides, as they had herebefore when they slept, they had allowed them to sit apart, taking the precaution, however, to bind their ankles with thongs. In the early part of the night the sisters, as if worn out with fatigue, had feigned deep slumber. Indeed the distance they had travelled, and the almost constant watchfulness of the preceding nights, rendered rest absolutely necessary to their worn frames. But the intimation they had received of friends lurking near, aroused them. To lull all suspicion, however, they thought it best to counterfeit sleep, and so satisfied were their captors of its reality and that it would remain unbroken, and so confident that they were entirely beyond the reach of the whites, they yielded themselves unreservedly to that repose which, from what they had lately undergone, nature imperiously demanded.

On a little mossy knoll, wholly unsheltered from the heavy dews, the captives had thrown themselves, their deep, regular breathing betokening that their senses were locked in the deepest slumber, and that they were totally oblivious to the scene around them: and yet there was not the fall of a leaf—the snapping of a twig—the faint chirp of a half-aroused bird—the low sighing of a passing breeze rustling in the tree tops—not one of the many sounds that disturb the silence of night in a forest, that was not heard by those apparently unconscious sleepers.

"When shall we start?" asked Sands.

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So saying, he commenced stripping off his garments, adding—"To save a long tramp, I must take to the water. You will stay here till I come back. Don't move about, and if you must talk, speak in whispers, for the slightest noise might betray us."

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Since the early evening, when the scout had apprised them of the presence of a friend their bosoms had throbbed with contending emotions—hope and fear absolutely predominating. As the night wore away and no further signs of rescue appearing, their anxiety increased. More than once was the head of Catharine, the eldest, lifted from its mossy pillow, while she cast furtive glances around the surface, the canoe of the savages was seen in hot pursuit.

"Don't be illustrates, youngsters," exclaimed the old man in a loud encouraging tone—"Put in all you know—a long sweep and a strong one, and we will distance them yet!" and exerting all his skill and strength the canoe literally leaped over the water.

"As he spoke a loud whoop rang over the still waters from up the lake, and in the distance, where the rays of the moon glimmered on the surface, the canoe of the savages was seen in hot pursuit.

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"While they were thus waiting in anxious solicitude, counting the moments by the beating of their own hearts, and almost despairing of an attempt being made that night; a faint sound in the bushes behind them reached their ears, causing them simultaneously to hold their

breath as they listened eagerly for its repetition. All, however, remained as still as before, and they came to the conclusion that their ears deceived them.

"I certainly thought I heard something, Anna," whispered the elder, placing her mouth close to her sister's ear.

"So did I," added her companion in a tremulous tone.

"Listen again, dear Anna!"

"Hiss!" came a low warning at the speaker's ear, interrupting her—"be silent as death—do not move—you have friends at hand!"

"Be calm, Anna, whispered Catharine in a joyful tone to her startled sister—"It is hunting time before he shot out into the bosom of the lake. Dipping his paddle so as not to disturb the quiet of the water, and crouching low in the canoe, he finally succeeded in transferring his prizes in safety to the spot where his young partizans were anxiously awaiting the issue of the adventure.

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